REMARKS

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the thorough examination given to this application and especially to the claims. Several problems with the claims were noted and the amendments requested above are believed to address those problems and more.

By the foregoing amendment, claim 1 has been amended to delete "sliding" from line 6 and to replace a period with a comma in line 9. This overcomes the section 112 rejection of claim 1 stated in paragraph 7 of the official action.

Claim 2 is now a proper dependent claim because it recites the sliding sealing ring and has been amended to recite that the sliding sealing ring is "the other" one of the sealing rings, i.e., not the one for which means are recited in claim 1 to prevent axial sliding movement.

Claim 3 has been amended to specify that it refers to the sealing ring mentioned in the "means" clause of claim 1.

Claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 1 and, in view of the amendment to claim 1 to remove the sliding seal ring recitation, no longer contradicts claim 1.

Claim 5 has been amended to depend from claim 1 and, in view of the amendment to claim 1 to remove the sliding seal ring recitation, claim 5 is now directed to a type of seal ring that is disclosed in the application.

Claim 6 is believed to be proper now that claim 1 does not recite the sliding seal ring.

Claim 7 has been amended to recite the ball and socket relationship between the housing and the sealing rings. Such a relationship is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art of record and it is believed that claim 7, amended as requested above, is in condition for allowance.

Claim 8, and all of the other dependent claims, have been amended to substitute "The seal..." for "A seal as".

Claim 9 limits claim 8 to the case where there is an annular recess on one of the sealing rings for receiving a protrusion on the driving or driven member. Claim 9 has been amended to refer to "the other" sealing ring, i.e., not the one that is a sliding seal ring as recited in claim 8. Such a sealing ring, with an annular recess, is shown, for example, in Fig. 2 where the sealing ring 70 receives a protruding portion of a compound surface of the outer race support 58. Accordingly, it is submitted that the limitation of claim 9 is shown in the drawings.

Claim 10 has been amended to depend from claim 7 so as not to contradict the sliding seal recitation in claim 8.

Claim 11 has been amended to make it clear that the seal ring with an annular protrusion is not the seal ring that has a sliding seal with a drive or driven member.

Claim 12 has been amended to depend from claim 7 so as not to contradict the sliding seal ring recited in claim 8.
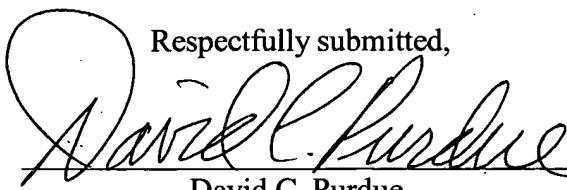
Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the 112 rejection. Claim 7 has been amended to recite a ball and socket relationship between the sealing rings and the housing and that is clearly not shown or suggested in Taylor or any other prior art of record. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 1 and 7 are in condition for allowance along with dependent claims 2 through 6 and 8 through 12, which have been amended to address the objections and rejections set forth in the official action.

In conclusion, it is submitted that this application, amended as requested above, is in

condition for allowance of all of the claims, including the claims that were withdrawn from

consideration pursuant to the applicant's election, in view of the allowability of claim 7 which is

generic to the species disclosed in the application.

     Favorable action is solicited.

          Respectfully submitted,

          David C. Purdue,
          Registration No. 31,412

DCPurdue
Purdue Law Offices
2735 North Holland-Sylvania Road, Suite B-2
Toledo, Ohio 43615
Telephone: (419) 531-0599
Facsimile: (419) 531-0362